

TRIBUTE TO LAYLA WILLIS

HON. THOMAS G. TANCREDI

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 4, 2000

Mr. TANCREDI. Mr. Speaker, "We have a lot of fun. We don't sweat the small stuff." That is the message of Layla Willis, a resident of Evergreen, CO, who was recently named "Mother of the Year" by Working Mother magazine.

By balancing her full time job, which requires frequent travel, with the daily tasks of raising three children, Layla has set an example for all working mothers to follow.

The message she brings forth rings true in all our lives. Many times we have to stop and dwell on issues or problems that will have a minimal impact in the grand scheme of our lives. But the growth and development of our children and grandchildren is significant and deserves our utmost attention.

Today, it is imperative in most homes that both parents work. My wife and I both worked full time jobs, as did my mother, but we can all stop and take steps to ensure that, regardless of this, our children never feel neglected. Layla has shown us all that it can be done in today's hectic lifestyles.

I would also like to commend Layla for her commitment in providing all children with a well rounded after school curriculum. With working parents, many children have a void in their lives when they leave school. Layla realizes that students need tutoring for school subjects, and other extra curricular activities that develop skills such as arts and crafts, sports and reading.

I urge all parents in Colorado and America who must work, to follow Layla's example, make your family the number one priority and stop sweating the small stuff.

HONORING CALIFORNIA
DISTINGUISHED SCHOOLS**HON. STEVEN T. KUYKENDALL**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 4, 2000

Mr. KUYKENDALL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize several exceptional elementary schools within my district. The California Distinguished Schools Program will honor Robinson Elementary of Manhattan Beach Unified, Rancho Vista Elementary of Palos Verdes Peninsula Unified, Tulita Elementary of Redondo Beach Unified, and Edison Elementary of Torrance Unified in an awards ceremony tomorrow. Started in 1985, the California Department of Education program recognizes a school's commitment to providing a superior education.

A total of 233 California grade schools were chosen for the annual awards. These schools were recognized with having the most up to date technology, balanced and rigorous curricula, and qualified, talented faculty. Most importantly, they are schools with the utmost student-teacher interaction as well as school-community interaction.

These schools value the cultural diversity of the local communities and make it a priority in their classes. They pay close attention to the

needs of each student, emphasizing the importance of academics and the community.

I commend these schools for providing local children a quality education. Their commitment to parental participation, professional development, community involvement, and academic achievement is exemplary. Education is important to the future of our nation. I wish these schools continued success.

IDEA FULL FUNDING ACT OF 2000

SPEECH OF

HON. JACK QUINN

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 3, 2000

Mr. QUINN. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of H.R. 4055, the IDEA Full Funding Act. Since the Individuals With Disabilities Education Act became law in 1975, the federal government has not lived up to its promise of providing 40 percent of the extra cost for state and local governments to educate these children.

I am proud to have participated in the effort over the past four years to increase IDEA funding by \$2.6 billion, or 115 percent. These important increases have only brought the federal contribution to 12.6 percent of the average per pupil expenditure to educate children with disabilities. We must do better. This legislation will authorize increases in special education spending by \$2 billion a year until we reach the federal commitment of 40 percent by the year 2010.

As a former schoolteacher in Orchard Park, New York, I am acutely aware of the burdens placed upon local school systems to educate special needs students. We owe it to these children to live up to our financial commitment. If the federal government lives up to its commitment to fund IDEA, the state and local school districts are then free to spend their money on classroom modernization, technology initiatives, hiring more teachers and buying new textbooks for students. This legislation ensures that special education students are given the proper resources, while at the same time, releases funding to help all students.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support H.R. 4055, the IDEA Full Funding Act.

TRIBUTE TO RAYMOND L. ORBACH

HON. KEN CALVERT

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 4, 2000

Mr. CALVERT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to join with the California Inland Empire Council Boy Scouts of America in saluting Dr. Raymond L. Orbach as their Distinguished Citizen of the Year—2000.

Dr. Raymond L. Orbach has been Chancellor at the University of California, Riverside for eight years, where he is also Distinguished Professor of Physics. At UCR, Chancellor Orbach has made community service and partnerships the focal point of his administration. The major part of that focal point is the students themselves. In fact, to remain in touch with the student population, he teaches

the calculus-based freshman Physics course at UCR every winter quarter.

Chancellor Orbach has been and continues to be a shining example of a person with passion and principles, who has strived to change the cultural and political direction of our nation. His approach and policy has been a simple one, that a community's strength comes from just that—the community. We must first start close to home and then radiate out if we hope to have fulfilling lives and impact others.

We have a vast system of public higher education in this country; a network of great state universities and colleges. Today we enjoy academic excellence in America as it is enjoyed nowhere else in the world. Chancellor Orbach is responsible for that part of America's incredible educational experiment known as UCR.

Every student at UC Riverside is the beneficiary of this man, who is deeply committed to educating our nation's young people and ensuring that they have a bright future. In fact, a New York Times Magazine article, in May of 1999, lauded Chancellor Orbach for his passion and principles. He is one person, making a difference. Chancellor Orbach reminds us what we, as Americans, ought to be. What we, as Americans, are capable of achieving.

Since 1910, the Boy Scout has been the epitome of the good American citizen. He has been instilled with the drive to "help other people at all times," and to keep himself "physically strong, mentally awake, and morally straight." To do this he must be: trustworthy, loyal, helpful, friendly, courteous, kind, obedient, cheerful, thrifty, brave, clean and reverent.

Chancellor Orbach has gone above and beyond the Boy Scout protocol. I ask all of my colleagues in Congress to please join me in honoring the Chancellor for his courage, innovation, and commitment to the youth of tomorrow as he is recognized on May 8th.

THE ARMENIAN GENOCIDE

SPEECH OF

HON. STENY H. HOYER

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 12, 2000

Mr. HOYER. Mr. Speaker, each year on the 24th of April we commemorate the anniversary of the Armenian Genocide. As we begin a new century, it is critical that we redouble our efforts to battle the forces of hatred and intolerance that perpetuate the persecution of people because of their ethnic, racial or religious identity. The massacre of Armenians in Turkey during and after the World War One is recorded as the first state-ordered genocide against a minority group in the 20th Century. Tragically, Mr. Speaker, it was not the last. In the 85 years since this unspeakable tragedy, the world has witnessed decades of genocide and ethnic cleansing, wholesale persecution of people simply because of who they are—European Jews, Bosnian Muslims, the Tutsis of Rwanda, Kosovar Albanians.

Mr. Speaker, as we reflect on the magnitude of the Armenian genocide and those that followed in the past century, the words of Helen Keller ring true. "No loss by flood and lightening, no destruction of cities and temples by the hostile forces of nature has deprived man